



TODAY

President's Column ~ Susan Yao

Date: February 16, 2023

Issue : #4



This week was our General Meeting to elect delegates to the 2023 **BCTF Annual General Meeting**. I can report that we have thirteen (13) delegates for our delegation and no alternates (usually we elect up to two alternates in case replacements are needed) along with two (2) of our Local Representatives (myself and Kathy Macfarlane). See list of the delegates. Congratulations to those elected and a huge thanks to all who put their names forward! And thanks to the DTA members who showed up for the General Meeting. I was sorry not to be in attendance as I have been dealing with an ongoing illness. I hope to be able to be back at work as soon as possible.

I encourage all DTA members to come to the AGM in Vancouver (think of it as a Spring Break field trip...) at some point to listen to the debate and reports. Any BCTF member (you!) can come to listen and even queue up to speak at the mic. However, only delegates can vote!

This AGM falls during a year when BCTF members have just ratified a new contract...

BCTF Annual General Meeting

Delta teachers will participate in the decision-making processes at the upcoming 2023 BCTF Annual General Meeting (March 18th to 21st at the Hyatt in downtown Vancouver). This meeting determines the BCTF members' dues along with decisions impacting policy and strategies of the BCTF. Since sixty locals are represented, Delta's participation ensures that our voice and values are heard. This year Delta's delegate entitlement is 14 regular delegates along with Delta's three Local Representatives (Susan Yao, Kathleen Macfarlane and Matt Huang with alternate Sandra Cadez). I am excited that the meeting will be back to in-person and I look forward to meeting with and hearing from colleagues from across British Columbia.

2023 BCTF AGM DELEGATES

Mike Bylsma	Kristina Cosentino
Tanja Cvekic	Jeff Hacker
Alina Ismaguilova	Mahima Lamba
Trish McCullough	Toby Mundy
Elen Nikas	Louise O'Brien
Alison Roche	Jessica Van Ryk
Wendy Yamazaki	

Local Representatives:

Susan Yao	Kathleen Macfarlane
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Secondary Futures

For secondary teachers, the past few years of the pandemic saw a switch to semesters to accommodate the "quarter" system which was supposed to limit physical and social interactions of students to contain the spread of COVID-19. That "experiment" has persisted in the employment of semesters across all seven secondary schools in Delta up to the present. However, the DTA can report that the District's Secondary Futures Committee has met and discussed a process whereby schools can examine survey findings; they will then decide what their timetables will look like for next year. Several options are being offered, and both admin and teachers are part of the committee bringing back information to staff. Schools must decide prior to March 7, 2023, as that is the date by which the Delta Board of Trustees must be informed.

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DTA Calendar

February/March 2022

- **Feb 16** BCTF AGM - Delegates Meeting #1
- **Feb 27** SRA Meeting, 4pm @ DSS
- **Feb 28** BCTF AGM - Delegates Meeting #2
- **Mar 7** EC Meeting, 4pm - Virtual
- **Mar 9** PD Committee Meeting, 4pm - Virtual
- **Mar 18/21** BCTF AGM - Vancouver

Newsletter of the Delta Teachers' Association

Uncertified Teachers

The DTA has been approached by members who are concerned to hear that other school districts are so short of teachers they are considering hiring uncertified teachers. Uncertified? What does that mean: did they not complete a teacher training program or did they not pass?

There have been questions:

- * *How many uncertified teachers does Delta currently have?*
- * *Is Delta thinking of hiring uncertified teachers like Langley and Chilliwack?*
- * *Do they pay into all the same fund we do? DTA? BCTF?*
- * *If Delta hires uncertified teachers, do we call them "teachers"?*

Who would support them since they have no training or background?

Unfortunately, while there are many questions there are fewer answers. And this potential may never come to pass in Delta. Certainly, the District has not shared any plans to hire uncertified teachers as TTOCs and has expressed that they do not plan to. But the crystal ball is still hazy and as the District is frequently attending hiring fairs to find new people, it is hard to know what the future holds.

Historical Context

When my mother started teaching in Delta back in the early seventies, she was uncertified with only a couple years of university. Then she went on to get her degree and her PDP from SFU. So, this has happened before. The issue of uncertified teachers will surely come to the floor of the BCTF AGM for discussion. And the DTA released table officers will be sure to keep you posted.

New Teachers' Conference 2023 - Nurturing with Nature, May 13th, 2023

NTC 2023 is a place to connect with teachers across British Columbia and further your own teaching practice. This conference, in Nelson this year, is designed for those in their first 5 years of teaching, student teachers, TTOCs, and those coming back to teaching after moving or being away from the classroom. <https://opportunities.bctf.ca/new-teachers-conference-2023-nelson/>



Donation News!

At the January meeting of the DTA Executive Committee, a motion was approved for an \$800.00 donation to the Delta Life Skills Summer Fun program. Donations* made by the DTA are guided by the DTA Constitution and Bylaws in Article 26 and allow for donations to organizations that provide services which are consistent with the goals of the DTA/BCTF. The DTA received a request for funding and report that the program supported 30 Delta students last year.

***Please note:** the DTA's donation policy is covered by Article 26 of the DTA's Constitution and By-laws and is an amount equal to one-half of one percent of the annual DTA budget.

Celebrate Diversity



February 22 - Pink Shirt Day
April 12 - International Day of Pink

A Teacher takes a hand, opens a mind, and touches a heart!